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Cylchlythyr | Circular

Initial Teacher Education: Intake Targets 2018/19

Date: 21 November 2017
Reference: W17/32HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing initial teacher education
Response by: No response required
Contact: Name: Dr Cliona O'Neill
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This circular gives the initial teacher education and training intake targets for the sector for 2018/19

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Introduction

1. This circular gives the initial teacher education and training (ITE) intake targets for the sector for 2018/19.
2. The letter which we have received from the Welsh Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

Sector ITE intake targets 2017/18

3. The letter from the Welsh Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2018/19, which has included taking account of outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
4. The overall sector primary and secondary intake target numbers remain unchanged from 2017/18.
5. Providers should not assume that the allocation of secondary PGCE subjects to 'priority' and 'other' groupings implies that any ITE incentives will be available for those on courses in 2018/19. The Welsh Government will write to the sector separately about this.
6. The Welsh Government has asked us to continue to allocate specific intake numbers to physics and chemistry, as in 2017/18. These can be linked with wider science content, but you will need to make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.
7. Welsh Government notes the Cabinet Secretary's continued focus on literacy and numeracy, in order to raise school standards. Mathematics and Welsh are included in the priority subjects group. HEFCW is also asked to protect English numbers for secondary ITE, in order to support literacy standards.
8. While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we encourage you to continue to develop and offer Welsh medium provision wherever possible. This is important to meet the demand for well-trained and qualified Welsh medium teachers in schools. We will monitor and report on the take-up of Welsh medium provision to Welsh Government. We also encourage you to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, working closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on the arrangements for the Welsh medium teaching competency certificate.

Over-recruitment

9. The Welsh Government letter recognises that providers have had difficulties in recruiting to target in 2015/16 and 2016/17, particularly in secondary provision, but emphasises that efforts should continue to be

made to ensure that over-recruitment against intake targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur. We remind you of the revised penalty arrangements which we introduced in the light of the new tuition fees and funding regime with effect from 2013/14 year onwards ([circular W13/08HE](#)).

Centre intake targets

10. We will aim to issue finalised primary ITE intake target allocations for the Centres of Teacher Education by mid December 2017, having considered the verified recruitment data for 2017/18 as part of the Higher Education Early Student Statistics (HESES) exercise. You will note that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for Centre allocations to the Welsh Government by the end of January 2018 at the latest. We will therefore aim to issue the finalised secondary ITE intake target allocations by the beginning of February 2018 at the latest.
11. Given that sector **primary PGCE and undergraduate targets** are unchanged, Centres may assume that they will receive the same targets for 2018/19 **provided that they have not breached the over-recruitment limits** for primary numbers in 2017/18 (or provided there is not significant under-recruitment). If a Centre has breached over-recruitment limits, it may be that the other Centres will gain a small number of additional targets. Welsh Government has asked us to take account of the quality of training being delivered in allocating numbers, and to continue to monitor the uptake of undergraduate primary ITE courses against intake targets.
12. Intake targets for **secondary undergraduate and postgraduate** provision can be expected to be similar to 2017/18, provided that there has not been significant **under- or over-recruitment** in particular subjects which we may need to take into account in distributing targets across subjects, **or a breach of penalty arrangements**.
13. We would like to encourage Centres to maintain their efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur and, where possible, every effort is made to recruit high quality candidates to target to those subjects included in the STEM priority recruitment category. Welsh Government has asked us to monitor intake against target closely, in line with our statutory role as accrediting body to monitor the quality and performance of accredited ITE providers.
14. Meetings have been scheduled with each Centre to discuss targets for 2018/19 and recruitment in 2017/18.

ITE Change Programme

15. The letter from Welsh Government also notes the ITE change programme, including changes to the accreditation criteria and the process for

accrediting ITE programmes. **As a result of these changes, 2018/19 is the last year in which HEFCW will notify you of ITE intake targets.** HEFCW will continue to monitor existing provision as it phases out.

Further information / responses to

16. For further information contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2085 9731; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

Yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau
Department for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dr David Blaney
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Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref:

October 2017

Dear Dr Blaney

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for mainstream initial teacher education and training (ITE) for the 2018/19 academic year.

Background

2. As you will be aware, the findings and recommendations contained in Professor John Furlong's report *Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers* form the foundation of the ITE change programme. The Teacher Education Accreditation Board of the EWC has now been established. Applications for the accreditation of ITE programmes which are to be delivered from September 2019 are currently being reviewed by the Board. Therefore, this will be that last year Welsh Government will formally notify you of ITE intake targets.

3. You will also be aware that the overall ITE intake numbers have remained unchanged since 2016/17 to protect the viability of courses during transition to the new accreditation arrangements. In addition these target intake figures are based on outputs of the TPSM (Teacher Planning and Supply Model). This statistical model considers actual data and projected data such as population, pupil demographics and teacher position vacancies. The enables us to forecast the likely future demand for newly qualified teachers in maintained schools.

4. The statistical model has been updated as follows:
 - (a) latest school pupil counts from PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) along with pupil projections calculated from trends indicated by the latest national population projections produced by Office for National Statistics (ONS);
 - (b) latest teacher counts from PLASC;
 - (c) number of registered teachers and in-service teachers in primary, secondary and special schools from the Education Workforce Council (EWC). Special and middle schools are split between primary and secondary;
 - (d) information on actual ITE intake figures and survival rates from statistics produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA);
 - (e) actual data on employment based route (EBR) completers.
5. In setting the intake targets due consideration is also given to the average number of applications received for teaching posts in primary and secondary schools to further understand the recruitment to vacancy position in Wales.

Detail – primary

6. Average applications for primary posts have been decreasing year-on-year since 2010. The average number of primary applications peaked at 26.0 in 2010 falling to 14.1 in 2016. Average number of applications for English medium primary posts was 18.4 in 2016 compared with 6.8 for Welsh medium primary posts.
7. The latest pupil projections (based on the Office for National Statistics 2014-based national population projections) suggest that from a high in 2018/19 of 265,852 primary pupil numbers will begin to decrease until 2024/25, a decrease of 8,817 pupils during this period. From 2025/26 pupil numbers will start to increase.
8. The baseline projection from the TPSM shows that without making any change there would be no over supply of primary entrants and an overall reduction in the number of re-entrants required to fill vacant positions.

Detail – secondary

9. Average applications for secondary posts have been decreasing year-on-year since 2011. The average number of secondary applications peaked at 14.8 in 2011 falling to 8.4 in 2016. Average number of applications for English medium secondary posts was 9.5 in 2016 compared with 3.1 for Welsh medium secondary posts.
10. Pupil projections suggest that secondary pupil numbers will increase by 18,361 between 2018/19 and 2024/25. Following this, the number of secondary pupils is expected to begin decreasing from this high point of 201,011 pupils.
11. A baseline projection from the TPSM shows that without any changes there would be no significant over supply of secondary ITE entrants. However, the secondary sector would have significantly more reliance on the use of re-entrants than the primary sector up until 2023/24.

Conclusion

12. Our conclusion taking the above into account is that the 2018/19 primary and secondary intake numbers should remain constant for a further year. This is reflective of TPSM projections which suggest that static intake numbers would not result in a position of over supply. Static targets will also provide a degree of stability during this transitional year.

13. We are also mindful of the need to ensure access to suitable Welsh medium provision across Wales. The average number of Welsh medium applicants for posts is low when compared to English medium applicants. A reduction in ITE places would possibly be detrimental.

14. Although the secondary sector is likely to become more reliant on re-entrants up to 2023, increasing intake targets is believed unlikely to alleviate this. A particularly low intake of trainees in 2015/16 and 2016/17 combined with low under graduate survival rates over the last three years have significantly exasperated this reliance on re-entrants.

15. Data on recruitment to target will be considered as part of any future decisions on allocations. Recruitment to secondary subjects against intake targets along with other relevant information about newly qualified teachers will also be considered.

The Graduate Teacher Programme and Teach First Wales

16. The intake targets detailed here do not include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), although we take account of these numbers in the TPSM process. The administration of the GTP under the employment-based teacher training programme is a matter for the ITE Centres. GTP numbers and the annual Policy Priorities Statement will be issued by the Welsh Government shortly.

Action

17. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITE for the 2018/19 academic year are set out in the table in the annex attached. Numbers are provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The figures also show a breakdown of secondary subjects into two groupings. HEFCW is asked to note that the breakdown of intake numbers does not imply that any ITE incentives will be available for those on courses in 2018/19; we will write separately about this once a decision has been made. These intake targets are derived from the Welsh Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which HEFCW, in exercising its functions, is required to have regard to under section 86(6)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

18. As in previous years, the targets in the attached annex do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets because of the relatively small numbers of places available overall. However, HEFCW is requested to continue to monitor institutions and encourage them to continue to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible and to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, working closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on the arrangements for Welsh medium competency teaching certificates. We would ask HEFCW to monitor the position in respect of take-up of Welsh medium provision and report to the Welsh Government accordingly.

19. For 2018/19 (and as in 2017/18) we expect HEFCW to allocate specific intake numbers to physics and chemistry. These can be linked to courses with wider science content but the ITE Centres will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.

20. In allocating the intake targets for 2018/19, as set out in the attached annex, HEFCW is asked to specifically consider these in light of:

- a. its own allocations to providers for 2017/18;
- b. course availability and other relevant factors including ITE provider performance;
- c. the quality of the existing provision being delivered as evidenced in Estyn inspection outcomes;
- d. how it proposes to allocate these numbers between accredited providers; and
- e. in the case of secondary targets, between subjects taking account of course recruitment difficulties as appropriate.

21. HEFCW will need to allocate the intake targets to the ITE Centres accordingly and in line with their own guidelines. In particular, HEFCW is asked that in allocating intake numbers for 2018/19 they take account of the quality of training being delivered.

22. For primary numbers, we are content for HEFCW to allocate them to providers as soon as possible and to notify us when this is done. For secondary numbers, HEFCW should write to the Workforce Strategy Unit as early as possible, but by no later than 31 January 2018, with proposals for allocating these numbers between ITE Centres.

23. In considering the allocation of secondary numbers, HEFCW should bear in mind the Cabinet Secretary's continued focus on literacy and numeracy in order to raise school standards. Mathematics and Welsh (where there are a range of supporting factors) are included in the priority subjects group, and the numbers there have remained at 2016/17 levels. On the same basis, and as last year, HEFCW is asked where possible to protect English numbers to some degree to support literacy standards.

24. Whilst we recognise that ITE providers have experienced difficulties in recruiting to target in 2015/16 and 16/17 academic years particularly in the secondary sector. The Cabinet Secretary would like to reinforce the message that efforts must continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against targets in the non-priority group and primary does not occur and where possible every effort is made to recruit high quality candidates to target those subjects included in the STEM priority recruitment category.

25. As mentioned above HEFCW and the ITE Centres will be aware of the ITE change programme, including changes to the accreditation criteria and the process for accrediting ITE programmes. While we do not propose to make changes to the number of places available through primary undergraduate ITE courses for 2018/19 we ask that HEFCW continue to monitor the uptake of undergraduate courses against intake targets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gemma Nye', written in a cursive style.

Gemma Nye
Head of Initial Teacher Education

Annex

Intake targets 2018/19

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	86	785	871
Total	386	1,235	1,621

Secondary PGCE subjects

Priority subjects

mathematics; chemistry; physics;
modern foreign languages; Welsh,
ICT (Computer studies)

313

Other subjects

Design & technology; English;
geography; biology; general /
integrated science; music;
religious education; history; PE;
art; business studies; dance &
drama; and outdoor activities

472

- Individual target totals listed above by category should be maintained.
- Our expectation is that HEFCW would ensure that once individual subject targets are notified to ITE Centres, numbers are not vied between primary and secondary allocations; between undergraduate or postgraduate provision and from subjects within the priority subject category to non-priority subject categories.
- HEFCW is asked to monitor intake against target closely, including under-recruitment trends and in line with its statutory role as accrediting body to monitor the quality and performance of accredited ITE providers.